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Europäisches Patentamt

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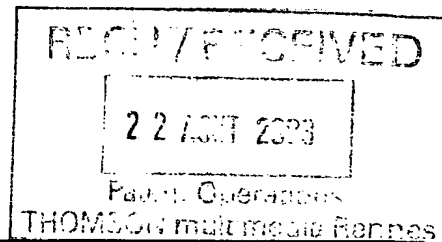
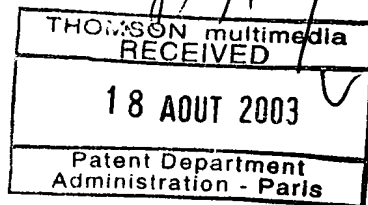
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Datum/Date
18.08.03

Zeichen/Ref./Réf. PD030031	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 03290659.6-1241-
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire DEUTSCHE THOMSON-BRANDT GMBH	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☐ abstract ☒ title

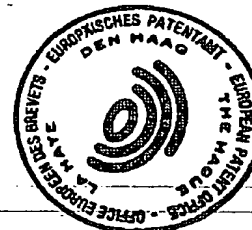
☒ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

7

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 03 29 0659

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim.	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 291 295 A (SRIVASTAVA) 1 March 1994 (1994-03-01) * the whole document *	1-4, 7-12, 15, 16	H04N5/44
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 404 (E-1405), 28 July 1993 (1993-07-28) & JP 05 075951 A (SONY), 26 March 1993 (1993-03-26)	1-3, 9-11	
A	* abstract *	4, 12	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			H04N
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		25 July 2003	Berwitz, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 03 29 0659

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

25-07-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5291295	A	01-03-1994	NONE	
JP 05075951	A	26-03-1993	NONE	



ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

03290659.6

Video pictures have different picture formats so that sidebars are displayed on the display device. Consequently, burning effects are different between used and unused areas of the screen. Therefore, the unused areas of the display device are driven with a signal which is varied in accordance with the video signal. Preferably, the signal intensity in at least a part of the active area of the screen is analysed and a medium value of such analysed area is used for driving the unused areas. As a result, the burning effect affects the used and unused areas equally and the sidebars are less disturbing since they are adapted to the video picture.



This application is covered by the extended European search report pilot project at present running within the European Patent Office, applied to all European patent applications filed as first filing and searched on or after 01.07.03. Under this project the EPO issues together with the search report an opinion on whether the application and the invention to which it relates meet the requirements of the EPC. This non-binding opinion is issued free of charge as a service. This opinion may be used as the basis for an informed decision as to whether it is desired to pursue the application further or not.

For further details of this pilot project, the applicant's attention is directed to the Official Journal edition 5/2003. If any further immediate questions or comments arise the EPO Customer Services: +31-70-340 4500 or +49-89-2399 2828 can be contacted.

The attached opinion reveals that the application or the invention to which it relates appear not to meet the requirements of the Convention (see comments on enclosed Form 2906).

If the applicant wishes to continue with this application the examination fee must be paid. Where appropriate amendments can be filed to address the objections raised in the opinion, thus shortening the overall procedure. If no amendments are filed, the opinion will be re-issued as the first official communication under Article 96(2) and Rule 51(2) EPC.

If the examination fee has already been paid and the right to the communication under Article 96(1) EPC has been waived for this application, the first official communication under Article 96(2) and Rule 51(2) EPC will be issued promptly.



The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Text for the Contracting States:

AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LU MC NL PT SE SI SK
TR LI

Description, pages:

1-11 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-16 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/14-14/14 as originally filed

The following document is referred to in this communication; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure :

D1 : US 5,291,295

1. **The application does not meet the requirements of Article 84 EPC, because claims 1 and 9 are not clear.**

Claims 1 and 9 define a "predetermined signal" which is understood as being a fixed signal. This is contradictory to the definition given in the characterizing part of these claims (varied), or to the definition given in dependent claims 3 or 11 (computed).



2. Furthermore, insofar as it could be understood, **the present application would not meet the requirements of Article 52(1) EPC because the subject-matter of clarified claims 1 and 9 would not be new in the sense of Articles 54(1) and (2) EPC.**

2.1 D1 discloses a method for driving display means having a predefined display area (figure 2) including the steps of :

providing a video signal for displaying a video image being smaller than said display area, so that one or more unused display sections remain on the display area (column 1, lines 37 to 40), and /

driving said one or more unused display sections with at least a signal which is varied in accordance with said video signal (figure 2; column 3, lines 2 to 14)

2.2 Therefore, the subject-matter of a clarified claim 1 and, for reasons similar to those above, of a clarified claim 9 would not be new and would not be allowable (Articles 52(1), 54(1) and (2) EPC).

3. **Dependent claims 2 to 4, 7, 8, 10 to 12, 15 and 16 are not novel** with respect to D1.

3.1 The additional subject-matter of claims 2 and 10 is disclosed in figure 2 (50 and 55).

3.2 The additional features of claims 3 and 11 are disclosed in column 3, lines 2 to 14.

3.3 Figure 2 discloses the analysing areas of claims 4 and 12 (LU, LM, LL, ...).

3.4 The additional features of claims 7, 8, 15 and 7 may be found in column 3, lines 27 to 32.

3.5 Therefore, the subject-matter of dependent claims 2 to 4, 7, 8, 10 to 12, 15 and 16 is not new and these claims are not allowable (Articles 52(1), 54(1) and (2) EPC).

4. It would presently appear that the combined subject-matter of claims 1, 3 and 5,



when clarified, would satisfy the requirements of the EPC in view of the cited prior art.

5. The new independent claims should be drafted in the two-part form as required by Rule 29(1) EPC, whereby the features known from D1 should be placed in the preamble.

If the applicant is of the opinion that a two-part form of the claim would be inappropriate he is invited to provide reasons in his reply (Guidelines C-III, 2.3b).

6. To meet the requirements of Rule 27(1)(b) EPC, the document D1 should be identified in the description and its relevant contents should be indicated. The applicant should ensure that it is clear from the description which features of the subject-matter of independent claim 1 are known from the document D1.
7. When filing amended claims the applicant should at the same time bring the description into conformity with the amended claims (Rule 27(1)(c) EPC). Care should be taken during revision, especially of the introductory portion and any statements of problem or advantage, not to add subject-matter which extends beyond the content of the application as originally filed (Article 123(2) EPC).

In order to facilitate the examination of the conformity of the amended application with the requirements of Article 123(2) EPC, the applicant is requested to clearly identify the amendments carried out, irrespective of whether they concern amendments by addition, replacement or deletion, and to indicate the passages of the application as filed on which these amendments are based.

If the applicant regards it as appropriate these indications could be submitted in handwritten form on a copy of the relevant parts of the application as filed.

The applicant is requested to effect the amendments by filing replacement pages for only those pages which have been amended. Unnecessary recasting of the description should be avoided. An amended abstract is not required. The applicant should also take account of the requirements of Rule 36(1) EPC. If handwritten amendments are submitted, they should be clearly legible for the printer. According to the decision of the President of the EPO under Rule 35(2) EPC (OJ EPO 12/2001,



Bescheld/Protokoll (Anlage)

Communication/Minutes (Annex)

Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)

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4

Anmelde-Nr.:
Application No.: 03 290 659.6
Demande n°:

563) one set of the amended documents of the European patent application shall be provided.